

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Tue 3/11/2014 9:25:39 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 3/11/14

OPA Daily Digest for 3/11/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Ann Wagner (Mo.) – Email 3/11/14: Requests an update on the West Lake Landfill site. Due: 3/13/14.
Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Pat Roberts (Kan.) – Phone inquiry – 3/11/14: Requests EPA's SPCC fact sheet for farmers. Due: 3/11/14.
Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa) – Email – 3/11/14: Constituent requests conference call with EPA staff regarding a RCRA permit for a recycling facility in Des Moines. Due: 3/13/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Daily Iowan, Iowa City - Gabrielle Dunn – 3/4/14: Questions regarding ethanol and Cyberize company turning trash to ethanol. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Blythe Bernhard – 3/11/14: Questions about the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - EPA accused of downplaying West Lake Landfill waste (+video) - 3/11/14 - A former Environmental Protection Agency insider says EPA officials interfered with decisions about what to do with the radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/03/10/west-lake-landfill-waste-epa/6271603/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Editorial: Shared 'pain of responsibility' is key to nuclear future - 3/11/14 - Nuclear power might well be one of the best options for keeping the lights as climate change makes coal obsolete and other sources of energy less reliable. But reality also says you can't plan for a nuclear future without properly preparing for the earthquakes and floods (and droughts) that are yet to come. http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/the-platform/editorial-shared-pain-of-responsibility-is-key-to-nuclear-future/article_6c64e985-5c16-530f-81f6-aadf2fd349de.html

Domestic Fuel - Iowa AG: EPA Proposal on Ethanol Violates Law - 3/11/14 - The proposed lowering of the amount of ethanol to be blended into the country's fuel supply raises the possibility the U.S. government could face a lawsuit for breaking the law. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/03/11/iowa-ag-epa-proposal-on-ethanol-violates-law/>

Des Moines Register - EPA inspections lead to \$75,000 penalty for former owner of northwest Iowa dairy - 3/11/14 - The former owner of the Double V Dairy near Rock Valley has agreed to pay a \$75,000 civil penalty to settle alleged violations of the Clean Water Act. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/03/10/epa-inspections-lead-to-75000-penalty-for-northwest-iowa-dairy/>

Associated Press - Muscatine emissions lawsuit raises questions - 3/11/14 - An Iowa Supreme Court justice on Monday raised questions about whether Iowa's court system is the best avenue for a case that involves numerous federal laws and "complex science." <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20140311/NEWS/303110088/Muscatine-emissions-lawsuit-raises-questions>

Water Online - Iowa Utilities To Merge For Cost Savings? - 3/10/14 - Iowa water utilities are examining whether teamwork could help them lower their costs. <http://www.wateronline.com/doc/iowa-utilities-to-merge-for-cost-savings-0001>

Kansas City Star - KC wins big after Bannister Federal Complex closing - 3/10/14 - Kansas City not only won the bureaucratic equivalent of a street fight over federal jobs at the soon-to-close Bannister Federal Complex, it kicked butt. That according to a man very familiar with the ways of Washington: former U.S. Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/10/4880319/kc-wins-big-after-bannister-federal.html>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Ameren Missouri getting new chairman, CEO - 3/11/14 - Ameren Corporation announced today that Michael Moehn has been promoted to chairman, president and chief executive of Ameren Missouri, effective April 1. <http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2014/03/11/ameren-missouri-getting-new-chairman-ceo.html>

Brownfield Ag News - Ethanol exec expresses optimism about RFS decision - 3/10/14 - At the recent Governor's Ag Conference in Kearney, Nebraska, Green Plains Renewable Energy president and CEO Todd Becker provided insights on current and future policy considerations for the biofuels sector. Becker expressed optimism about the RFS decisions. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/03/10/ethanol-exec-expresses-optimism-epa/>

The Messenger (Fort Dodge, Iowa) - Getting an earful at post - 3/11/14 - Members of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority held the first of four meetings on Monday to listen to the concerns of landowners along the watershed in hopes of building partnerships with those landowners to gain better water quality and less water quantity flowing downstream to Ames. <http://www.messengernews.net/page/content.detail/id/574028/Getting-an-earful-at-post.html>

Climate Central - GAO: Climate Change Threatens Energy Infrastructure - 3/10/14 - all the infrastructure Americans rely on to heat their homes, power their lights and fuel their trains, trucks and cars is becoming more and more exposed to failure in a changing climate. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/gao-climate-change-major-threat-to-energy-infrastructure-17159>

Washington Post - New research shows air pollution might make you bad at your job - 3/10/14 - New research shows air pollution might make you bad at your job - Researchers have released a study that shows, for the first time, a significant link between air pollution and the productivity of indoor workers. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/03/10/new-research-shows-air-pollution-might-make-you-bad-at-your-job/>

NBC News - U.S. Nuclear Agency Hid Concerns, Hailed Safety Record as Fukushima Melted - 3/11/14 - Staff at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission made a concerted effort to play down the risk of earthquakes and tsunamis to America's aging nuclear plants. <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/fukushima-anniversary/u-s-nuclear-agency-hid-concerns-hailed-safety-record-fukushima-n48561>

The Daily Climate - On display in the Senate: Climate change, illustrated - 3/11/14 - As Senators warned Monday night of the dangers of climate change, staffers prepared images from photojournalist and Daily Climate contributor Gary Braasch to bring the issue to life. <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2014/03/senate-climate-photos>

The New York Times - Senate Democrats' All-Nighter Flags Climate Change - 3/11/14 - On Monday night, an impassioned Mr. Reid took to the Senate floor to kick off a nearly 15-hour climate-change talkathon by about 30 Senate Democrats, part of a campaign by a new Senate "climate caucus" to make it a politically urgent issue. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/11/us/politics/26-democrats-plan-a-senate-all-nighter-on-climate-change.html>

Associated Press - Democrats clock all-nighter with climate talk - 3/11/14 - Democratic senators clocked an all-nighter, working in shifts into Tuesday morning to warn of the devastation from climate change and the danger of inaction. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/11/4880708/on-senate-floor-dems-talk-all.html>

Politico - Democrats: Round-the-clock climate speeches not just hot air - 3/11/14 - The dusk-to-dawn series of floor speeches that started Monday evening is meant to show that the chamber's Democrats have reached a consensus on the urgent need to address climate change. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/democrats-climate-speeches-104501.html>

Washington Post - EPA misused federal charge cards, watchdog says - 3/11/14 - Lax oversight at the Environmental Protection Agency allowed the organization's employees to misuse federal charge cards for buying items such as gym memberships, meals and gift cards. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2014/03/11/epa-misused-federal-charge-cards-watchdog-says/>

Forbes - Is Natural Gas-Fired Electricity An Intermittent Resource? - 3/10/14 - The use of renewable energy resources for generating electric power is limited by the fact that renewable resources are not always available. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/williampentland/2014/03/10/is-natural-gas-fired-electricity-an-intermittent-resource/>

Politico - Democrats: Round-the-clock climate speeches not just hot air - 3/11/14 - The dusk-to-dawn series of floor speeches that started Monday evening is meant to show that the chamber's Democrats have reached a consensus on the urgent need to address climate change. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/democrats-climate-speeches-104501.html>

Wall Street Journal - In Fracking, the Energy Business Gets Neighborly - 3/10/14 - It isn't just a radical fringe of Americans who worry about the environment — and energy executives finally seem to have noticed. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304020104579431290205031238?mg=reno64-wsj&url=http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB10001424052702304020104579431290205031238.html>

GreenTech Media - How Solar Breaks Traditional Planning on the Distribution Grid - 3/7/14 - Changes in rate structures, government and utility incentives, customer loyalty, consumerization of supply, and consumption of power are being discussed in a variety of states with growing rates of solar penetration. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/how-solar-breaks-traditional-feeder-planning-and-engineering>

CNN - Is the Senate's climate change all-nighter more than a one-night stand? – 3/10/14 - It might not have had the drama of a Sen. Ted Cruz overnight talk-a-thon, but some Senate Democrats hope their all-night effort draws similar attention to their issue that has been stalled in Congress: climate change.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/10/politics/climate-change/>

ClimateWire - Wind power has more than tripled in 6 years -- report - 3/11/14 - The top 10 wind-energy-producing states are generating enough clean energy to power roughly 11.5 million U.S. homes, according to data released last week by the American Wind Energy Association.

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1059995875/>

BNA - Federal Agencies Developing Data, Tools For Local Climate Resiliency, McCarthy Says - 3/10/14 - Federal agencies are developing the data and tools local governments need to develop their own climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy and other officials told the National League of Cities March 10.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=42760363&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e7p4q7v8&split=0

BNA - FERC Orders Utilities to Develop Standards To Protect Power Grid From Physical Attacks - 3/10/14 - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has directed an electric utility organization to come up with reliability standards to protect the electricity grid from physical attacks.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=42760358&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e7p1d5m6&split=0

BNA - State Regulators Urge Senators to Examine Gaps in Laws for Addressing Chemical Spills - 3/10/14 - State regulators have written to Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), David Vitter (R-La.), Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) urging them to examine the gaps in environmental laws and regulations addressing chemical spills before moving forward on new legislation.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=42760352&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e7p0t9d8&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Urged To Invest In Canadian CCS Project To Aid Utility NSPS Defense - 3/11/14 - EPA is facing calls to invest in a Canadian carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) consortium that proponents say is developing the first commercially viable post-combustion CCS solution for the utility sector.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201403112463883/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/epa-urged-to-invest-in-canadian-ccs-project-to-aid-utility-nsps-defense/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Advocates Sue FDA To Force Release Of Fish Advisory To Pregnant Women - 3/11/14 - Environmental and public health groups are suing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to force the release of a long-awaited new fish consumption advisory to pregnant women that was co-authored with EPA.

<http://insideepa.com/Risk-Policy-Report/Risk-Policy-Report-03/11/2014/advocates-sue-fda-to-force-release-of-fish-advisory-to-pregnant-women/menu-id-130.html>

Inside EPA - D.C. Circuit Rejects Suit Over EPA's Utility Conventional Pollutant Air Rule - 3/11/14 - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has rejected the utility industry's suit over EPA's new source performance standards (NSPS) setting emissions limits on conventional air pollutants from power plants. <http://insideepa.com/201403112463884/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/dc-circuit-rejects-suit-over-epas-utility-conventional-pollutant-air-rule/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Challenging Safety Finding, Advocates Fault EPA's Coal Ash Reuse Review - 3/11/14 - Environmentalists are questioning the quality and scope of EPA's recently released method for assessing the risks posed by encapsulated uses of coal combustion residuals (CCR). <http://insideepa.com/201403112463885/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/challenging-safety-finding-advocates-fault-epas-coal-ash-reuse-review/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - PVC Industry Seeks Stay Of EPA Air Toxics Rule During Reconsideration - 3/10/14 - Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) manufacturers are asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to put implementation of an EPA air toxics rule for the sector on hold until the agency finishes its reconsideration of the rule. <http://insideepa.com/201403102463828/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/pvc-industry-seeks-stay-of-epa-air-toxics-rule-during-reconsideration/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - GAO Says Budget Sequester Hurt EPA Morale, Inspections - 3/10/14 - The Government Accountability Office (GAO) says the budget sequester that reduced EPA's budget in fiscal year 2013 prevented staff from performing about 1,000 site inspections and 290 contaminated site cleanups and harmed staff morale due to furloughs and a hiring freeze, which GAO says remains a "major concern" at the agency. <http://insideepa.com/201403102463782/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/gao-says-budget-sequester-hurt-epa-morale-inspections/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/20/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

3/21/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

3/24/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

3/26/14 – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

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3/27/14 – Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe to Visit Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Mark Hague, 7546

3/31/14 – Madison and Lila Self Graduate Spring Symposium, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

4/1/14 – Joint EPA/FTA/FHWA Meeting Regarding the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, Regional Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

4/3/14 – Mid-American Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

4/22/14 – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/30/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

4/30/14 – Westar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Rebecca Weber, 7487

5/1/14 – Meet with Missouri Department of Agriculture Director, Richard Fordyce, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

DRA:

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

3/13/2014 – EJ Small Grants Community Tour, Press Event and Stakeholder Roundtable, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

ENSV

None

PLMG

4/1/14 - Federal Executive Board & Chamber of Commerce Small Business Networking Event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall 7549

4/1/14 - Federal Executive Board Federal Contracting Do's & Don'ts Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall 7549

4/2/14 - State of Missouri Disparity Study Stakeholder Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Chester Stovall 7549

4/3/14 – US Corps of Engineers' Society of Military Engineers Annual Contracting Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Chester Stovall 7549

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

3/18-19/14 - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

4/1-2/14 - Hosting spring Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

WWPD

3/9-13/14 – National Association of State Drinking Water Administrators meeting and National EPA Drinking Water Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Mary Mindrup, 7431

3/10-12/14 – EPA Water Division Directors Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

3/11-14/14 – Water Quality Standards National Program Meeting, Washington, DC. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

3/16-18/14 – Nebraska Rural Water Association Conference, Meeting with State Partners on Drinking Water Issues, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

3/27-28/14 Quarterly Public Water Supply Enforcement Coordination Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Scott Marquess, 7131, Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/1-2/14 – Regulatory Update Presentation at American Water Works Association Annual Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/28-5/4/14 – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

5/5-8/14 – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

5/12-16/14 – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886